

In the Claims:

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1. In a distributed network, a method of recursively linking a multiply
5 modified multimedia asset to an original digital negative of the multimedia asset,
comprising:

(a) modifying the original digital negative of the multimedia asset to form
a first resultant multimedia asset;

10 (b) generating a first edit list based upon the modifying (a);

(c) associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset;

15 (d) linking the first edit list to the original digital negative of the
multimedia asset;

(e) modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second
resultant multimedia asset;

20 (f) generating a second edit list based upon the modifying (e);

(g) associating the second edit list to the second resultant multimedia
asset; and

25 (h) linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the multimedia asset is a digital
image.

30 3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the linking (d) comprises:

associating a first edit list pointer with the original digital negative wherein the first edit list pointer points back to the first edit list.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the linking (d) comprises:
5 embedding the first edit list in the first resultant digital image.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the linking (h) comprises:
associating a second edit list pointer to the second resultant digital image wherein
the second edit list pointer points back to the second edit list.

5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the linking (h) comprises:
embedding the second edit list in the second resultant digital image.

6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
recursively repeating (e) - (h) to form a set of hierarchically layered
resultant multimedia assets and an associated set of hierarchically layered edit lists,
wherein a particular multimedia asset at an nth level of the set of hierarchically layered
20 multimedia assets is an nth multiply modified multimedia asset; and

applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the original digital
negative to form the particular multimedia asset.

7. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the applying is performed by a
processor arranged to perform executable instructions.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the processor is included in a host
computer coupled to a distributed network of computers.

9. In a distributed network, an apparatus for recursively linking a multiply modified multimedia asset to an original digital negative of the multimedia asset, comprising:

(a) a means for modifying the original digital negative of the multimedia asset to form a first resultant multimedia asset;

(b) a means for generating a first edit list based upon the modifying (a);

(c) a means for associating the first edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset;

(d) a means for linking the first edit list to the original digital negative of the multimedia asset;

(e) a means for modifying the first resultant multimedia asset to form a second resultant multimedia asset;

(f) a means for generating a second edit list based upon the modifying (e);

(g) a means for associating the second edit list to the second resultant multimedia asset; and

(h) a means for linking the second edit list to the first resultant multimedia asset.

10. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein the multimedia asset is a digital image.

11. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

a means for associating a first edit list pointer with the original digital negative wherein the first edit list pointer points back to the first edit list.

12. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a means for embedding the first edit list in the first resultant digital image.

5 13. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
a means for associating a second edit list pointer to the second resultant digital
image wherein the second edit list pointer points back to the second edit list.

14. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, further comprising:
10 a means for embedding the second edit list in the second resultant digital image.

15. An apparatus as recited in claim 9, further comprising;
15 a means for recursively repeating (e) - (h) to form a set of hierarchically
layered resultant multimedia assets and an associated set of hierarchically layered edit
lists, wherein a particular multimedia asset at an nth level of the set of hierarchically
layered multimedia assets is an nth multiply modified multimedia asset; and

20 a means for applying a set of n hierarchically layered edit lists to the
particular multimedia asset at the nth level to form the original digital negative of the
particular multimedia asset.

16. An apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the applying is performed by
25 a processor arranged to perform executable instructions.

17. An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein the processor is included in a
host computer coupled to a distributed network of computers.